the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 19th July, 2004, those claimants who have been awarded original compensation (5,73,018) have to be paid additional compensation on pro-rata basis. This process has been started and 1,57,752 claimants have already been paid pro-rata compensation by the Welfare Commissioner amounting to Rs. 458.88 crore till 21.4.2005. The pro-rata disbursement process has to be completed by 30th April, 2006, as per orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Forecasting of pollution levels by group of consultants

4707. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some group of consultants specialising in forecasting pollution levels for cities across the world now want to do the same in India;

(b) if so, Goverment's comments thereon;

(c) the effect of such forecasting;

(d) whether Government propose to involve itself in this; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) A Team of consultants from Japan International Co-operation Agency has provided technical assistance for development of study relating to 'Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga' with focus along stretches of four towns namely, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad and Varanasi. The study envisages estimation of sewage generation for various years upto 2030 and the river pollution problem scenario in four towns. Source apportionment studies to forecast air pollution generated from various sources in identified major towns have also been initiated through consultants.

(d) and (e) All the stake holders are participating in the above referred activities.

Seizure of the skins of tigers and leopards

4708. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 40 skins of tigers and leopards were seized in one of the biggest hauls in North Delhi on April 6, 2005;

(b) if so, the details and cost of the haul; and

(c) the findings of the investigation made into the racket particularly the *modus operandi* of the poachers/smugglers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 45 uncured leopard skins and 14 uncured otter skins were seized in North Delhi on 6th April, 2005. The value of the seized produce can not be determined since there is no permitted trade of wildlife articles.

(c) Three persons were arrested in the present case. The matter is under investigation with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Drying inland wetlands

4709. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the finding of a UNDP study on the drying up of a large number of inland wetlands in the country since 1991; and

(b) if so, the causes responsible for the same and steps proposed by Government to check the process and to revive these wetlands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The finding of the UNDP Report entitled "Inland Wetlands of India-Conservation Priorities" by Salim Ali Centre for Orinthology & Natural Hisotry (SACON) presents information about wetlands of the size generally ranging between 2 to 56 hectares in 72 districts located in 10 States. Wetlands in 33 districts in the studied category are reported to have undergone spatial reduction. However, there is no corroborative evidence of these findings.

(b) The UNDP Report has attributed causes for spatial reduction in 33 districts to lack of awareness about values of wetlands, to not giving them